

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 04010 131832Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-14 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 SSO-00
NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
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O R 131715Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4078
INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SANA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION USNATO

UNCLAS LONDON 04010

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SO, ET, UK
SUBJECT: THE HORN: FCO STATEMENT ON SOMALI WITHDRAWAL

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1. FOLLOWING IS TRANSCRIPT OF FCO PRESS STATEMENT ON
THE HORN ISSUED MARCH 10.

2. BEGIN TEXT: FCO SPOKESMAN WAS ASKED IF HE HAD
ANY COMMENT ON SOMALIA'S DECISION TO WITHDRAW HER
FORCES FROM THE OGADEN. HE REPLIED THAT THE BRITISH
GOVERNMENT WELCOMED SOMALIA'S DECISION TO WITHDRAW

HER FORCES. HMG HAD CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED THE OAU'S STAND ON TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND HAD ACCORDINGLY ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT SOMALIA SHOULD WITHDRAW FROM THIS AREA ENABLING THE FIGHTING TO STOP AND NEGOTIATIONS FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT TO BEGIN. HMG HAD MADE ITS VIEWS CLEAR TO THE SOMALI GOVERNMENT.

WE BELIEVE THAT ETHIOPIA SHOULD RESPOND BY OBSERVING A CEASEFIRE AND PERMITTING THE SOMALI FORCES TO DISENGAGE FROM THE AREA OF CONFLICT. WE HOPE THAT THE OAU WILL NOW, THROUGH ITS MEDIATION MACHINERY, CONSIDER THE NEED FOR AN INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE IN THE AREA OF FIGHTING TO SUPERVISE THE WITHDRAWAL AND THE WELL-BEING OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE AREA.

SOMALIA'S WITHDRAWAL MEANS THAT RUSSIAN AND CUBAN FORCES CAN AND SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN FROM THE AREA. WE BELIEVE THAT BOTH ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA SHOULD UNDERTAKE TO RESPECT EACH OTHER'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. WE ALSO ATTACH IMPORTANCE TO THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE AREA, INCLUDING KENYA."

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION, SPOKESMAN SAID THAT IN THE PHRASE "...RUSSIAN AND CUBAN FORCES CAN AND SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN FROM THE AREA...", THE AREA MEANT ETHIOPIA AND THE HORN IN GENERAL.
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SPOKESMAN WAS ASKED IF BRITAIN WOULD PROVIDE ARMS TO SOMALIA NOW SHE WAS WITHDRAWING FROM THE OGADEN. HE REPLIED THAT THE UK WAS IN TOUCH WITH HER WESTERN ALLIES OVER THE SITUATION. THE GOVERNMENT WOULD WANT TO CONSIDER CAREFULLY HOW IT COULD BEST HELP SOMALIA FOLLOWING THE WITHDRAWAL BUT UNATTRIBUTABLY HE COULD NOT SAY ANYTHING SPECIFIC ABOUT ARMS SUPPLIES. END UNATTRIBUTABLE. SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT HMG WOULD REGARD ANY THREAT TO SOMALIA'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY VERY SERIOUSLY. END TEXT
BREWSTER

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